

Abstract

The presented diploma thesis “*Alternatives for the regional reform of the Czech Senate*” frames on the basis of a comparative analysis of regional second chambers in the West European countries the possible alternatives for the regional reform of the Czech Senate. The comparative analysis of second chambers of parliaments in Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and France identifies the similarities and differences between the examined second chambers, in particular with respect to their historical origin, way of election, size, constitutional powers, relation to the first chamber and relation to the executive branch of the government. The examined second chambers are classified according to A. Lijphart’s typological concept on the scale of strong – medium strength – weak bicameralism. The comparative analysis is then the source for the framing of specific alternatives for the regional reform of the Czech Senate. The main conclusions of the thesis are: (1) examined West European regional second chambers fall within the types of medium strength and weak bicameralism, (2) the hypothesis about the weaker position of second chambers in unitary states is partially confirmed, and (3) the framing of representative and functional alternatives for the regional reform of the Czech Senate.